

P2P software has been implicated in several recent, high-profile security breaches. In one case, documents detailing the President's helicopter, Marine One, were found on a computer in Iran.

In another, a congressional aide inadvertently leaked a confidential document about investigations into several members of Congress.

In each case, P2P software was found to have been the culprit.

That's why I introduced H.R. 1319, the Informed P2P User Act, with my colleagues, Congresswoman Bono Mack (CA-45) and Congressman Joe Barton (TX-6). The bill, which passed the House on December 8, addresses the security risk of P2P file sharing networks by making users aware of these risks before they log on.

Specifically, the Informed P2P User Act:

- Ensures that P2P file sharing programs cannot be installed without providing clear notice and obtaining informed consent of the authorized computer user.
- Makes it unlawful to prevent the authorized user of a computer from:
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 - Blocking the installation of a peer-to-peer file sharing program, or
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 - Disabling or removing any peer-to-peer file sharing program.
- Gives enforcement authority to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

I hope the Senate moves quickly to pass the Informed P2P User Act. The security risks associated with P2P file sharing aren't just a concern for folks worried about their personal files - it's become an issue of national security.

I hope folks will also take a few moments to speak with your kids about using P2P file sharing

programs.